

## Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 EB-07 /070 W

----- 123517

R 131600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1402

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP CASC ML

SUBJECT: PROTEST RE INJURIES TO TEXACO DIRECTOR'S WIFE

REF: STATE 104835

1. ON MAY 7 I SAW BOUBACAR KANTE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE, TO PROTEST THE MISTREATMENT OF WIFE OF TEXACO DIRECTOR DURING STUDENT DEMONSTRATION.

2. I MADE THE FOLLOWING ORAL PRESENTATION. AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30 A.M. MAY 5 MRS. LABBE WAS RETURNING TO HER RESIDENCE AFTER HAVING TAKEN HER SON TO SCHOOL. SHE WAS UNABLE TO RETURN BY HER USUAL ROUTE BECAUSE THAT ROAD WAS BLOCKED BY THE POLICE. SHE WAS DIRECTED BY THE POLICE TO TAKE ANOTHER ROAD. SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO ADVANCE WARNING OF THE DEMONSTRATION, MRS. LABBE WAS UNAWARE THAT ONE WAS TAKING PLACE. SHE FOUND HERSELF SURROUNDED BY A CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS AND WAS UNABLE EITHER TO PROCEED OR TO TURN AROUND. THERE WERE NO SECURITY PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING THE DEMONSTRATORS. THE CROWD BEGAN THROWING ROCKS AT THE CAR, PULLED HER OUT OF THE CAR BY FORCE AND BEGAN ROUGHING HER UP. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER. SOME PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SAW

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WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND RESCUED HER FROM THE CROWD. AT

THE SAME TIME A PCV WENT IN SEARCH OF A POLICEMAN. MEMBERS OF THE CROWD TRIED TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR OF THE PEACE CORPS RESIDENCE AND TRIED ALSO TO CLIMB OVER THE WALL. AFTER A POLICE OFFICER ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, APPARENTLY PROMPTLY, A PCV ACCOMPANIED BY THE POLICEMAN BROUGHT MRS. LABBE TO THE EMBASSY IN A PC LANDROVER WHERE HER INJURIES WERE TREATED. THE TEXACO CAR WAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

3. SINCE THE DEMONSTRATION WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOM, SINCE THE PURPOSE OF THE DEMONSTRATION, SOLIDARITY WITH THE VIET CONG, HAD CLEAR ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES, AND SINCE MRS. LABBE WAS DIRECTED ON TO THE ROUTE WHERE THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE BY A MALIAN POLICE OFFICIAL, WE CONSIDER THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOM TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS AND AMERICAN PROPERTY. WE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, SINCE IT WAS AN AUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION, THERE WAS NO ADVANCE WARNING GIVEN OR WHY THERE WERE NO SECURITY PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING THE DEMONSTRATORS TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINED A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION. I, THEREFORE, WISHED TO PROTEST AGAINST THE FAILURE OF THE GOM TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

4. KANTE WAS OBVIOUSLY PREPARED FOR MY PROTEST. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOM TO EXPRESS ITS PROFOUND REGRETS FOR THIS INCIDENT WHICH THE GOM DEPLORED. HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO ASSURE ME THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO BE A MANIFESTATION OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRELIMINARY INFORMATION WAS THAT THE INSTIGATORS OF THE ATTACK ON MRS. LABBE WERE NOT STUDENTS BUT RATHER AGITATORS WHO WERE TRYING TO PROVOKE AN INCIDENT. HE SAID THAT THE GOM HAD ALREADY INSTITUTED AN INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIR AND THAT AS SOON AS THE INQUIRY WAS COMPLETED HE WOULD INFORM ME OF THEIR FINDINGS. HE AGREED THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS IN FACT AN AUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION BUT, HE SAID, THE GROUP IN QUESTION HAD MANAGED TO EVADE THE SECURITY OFFICIALS. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE GOM WAS TAKING STEPS TO ASSURE THAT THERE WOULD NEVER BE A REPETITION OF SUCH AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCIDENT.

COMMENT: THE MALIANS ARE VERY EMBARRASSED AND ASHAMED OVER THIS AFFAIR. IT IS DEFINITELY OUT OF CHARACTER FOR VIOLENCE TO OCCUR IN MALI, PARTICULARLY AGAINST FOREIGNERS. THIS IS IN FACT THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT INVOLVING A FOREIGNER THAT ANYONE KNOWS ABOUT. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT WITH WHICH MANY OF MY DIPLOMATIC

COLLEAGUES AGREE, IS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS PROVOKED  
BY AGITATORS WISHING TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT.  
IF SO, THEY CERTAINLY SUCCEEDED. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD  
CONSIDER THE INCIDENT CLOSED. I WILL FORWARD WHATEVER  
INFORMATION RESULTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S INQUIRY  
AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED.  
MCGUIRE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICE PROTECTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAY 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750168-0708  
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